

REMARKS

Status Of Application

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 18, 22, 23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,063,416 to Cooper ("Cooper Patent").

Claims 9, 18, 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent").

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,933,447 to Pasini, III et al. ("Pasini Patent").

Claims 19, 20, 24, and 26 are objected to.

Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 27-28 are allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

The acknowledgement in the Office Action of the PTO Form 1449, is noted with appreciation.

Amendments to Specification

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claim Amendments

Claims 19, 20, 24, and 26 have been amended to incorporate limitations of the rejected independent claims from which they previously depended. These changes are not

necessitated by the prior art, are unrelated to the patentability of the invention over the prior art, and do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 21 – 23 and 25 have been rewritten to depend from currently amended claim 19. As claim 19 is now believed to be allowable, claims 21 – 23 and 25 should also be allowable.

Claims 9 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 29-35 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-8, 10-17, 27, and 28, by the Examiner is noted with appreciation.

The objection to claims 19, 20, 24, and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is noted with appreciation.

Claims 19, 20, 24, and 26 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, as suggested by the Examiner.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 19, 20, 24, and 26 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 18, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,063,416 to Cooper ("Cooper Patent"), is rendered moot by cancellation of claim 18 and the current amendments to claims 22, 23 and 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 18, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,063,416 to Cooper ("Cooper Patent"), be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 9, 18, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent"), is rendered moot by cancellation of claim 18 and the current amendments to claims 22, 23 and 25.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9, 18, 22, 23, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent"), be reconsidered and withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,933,447 to Pasini III ("Pasini Patent"), is rendered moot by the current amendments to claim 21. Specifically, claim 21 now depends from currently amended claim 19 which, as amended, is believed to be in allowable form.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,298,434 to Graham ("Graham Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,933,447 to Pasini III ("Pasini Patent"), be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment increases the number of independent claims by 4 from 6 to 10 and increases the total number of claims by 5 from 28 to 33, but does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, a Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form authorizing the amount of \$1,450.00 to be charged to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Credit Card is enclosed herewith in duplicate. A Credit Card Payment Form is also enclosed herewith. However, if the Response Transmittal and Fee Authorization form is missing, insufficient, or otherwise inadequate, or if a fee, other than the issue fee, is required during the pendency of this application, please charge such fee to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374.

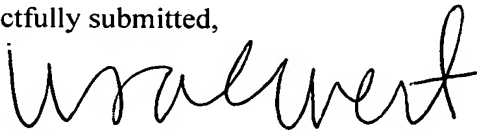
Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Application No. 10/656,436
Amendment dated November 17, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 23, 2005

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Hitchcock Evert LLP's Deposit Account No. 503374. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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